

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 221253Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3503

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEFO

CJCS

COMUSSAG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11536

E.OM 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUB: CONSCRIPTION STATUS REPORT

REF: PHNOM PENH 11413

1. FOLLOWING THE CONFUSION OF OCTOBER 19 (REXTEL) EXAMINING
BOARDS HAVE BEEN MOVED BACK TO THE VARIOUS KHAND OFFICES AND
THE UNREALISTPC 2,500 MAN QUOTA FOR PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN
REDUCED TO 500, THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF THE FANK RECEPTION
CENTER (WHERE CONSCRIPTS ARE NOW STAYING FOR 24 HOURS
RATHER THAN THE ORIGINAL 2 DAYS), BEGINNING TODAY. THE
SYSTEM THUS APPEARS TO BE REACHING AN EQUILIBRIUM WHICH
WILL HOPEFULLY RESULT IN A CONTINUING FLOW OF NEW CONSCRIPTS
WITHOUT OVERLOADING THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR
PROCESSING THEM.

2. THE CHIEF OF KHAND DAUN PENH ONE OF THE SMALLER
PHNOM PENH SUBDIVISIONS WAS GUARDELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
FULFILLING THE NEW QUOTA AND SAID THAT HE HAS MADE
PROGRESS IN INVOLVING LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS IN CON-
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SCRIPTION EFFORTS. THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE INCREASED

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE NOW ARRIVING. HE SAID. ON THE OTHER HAND THE CHIEF OF KHAND DECHO, THE CITY'S LARGEST, TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT THE POLICE AND GENDARMARIE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE MORE THAN A TOKEN NUMBER OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED TO RESPOND TO CONVOCAATION ORDERS IN HIS SUBDIVISPON. UNTIL CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IS MADE IN THIS AREA THE CONSCRIPTIONPROGRAM CANNOT BE TERMED A SUCCESS.

3. AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 21 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 2,393 RECRUITS (838 CONSCRIPTS ANB 1.555 VOLUNTEERS). PHNOM PENH CITY OFFICIALY REPORT THAT A TOTAL OF 12,000 CONVOCAATIONS WERE SENT OUT FOR OCTOBER 19 (THE DAY THE 2,500 QUOTA WENT INTO EFFECT) RESULTING IN 4,670 GESPONSES AND 472 NEW CONSCRIPTS. IN ADDITION THERE WERE 148 VOLUNTEERS FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 620 RATHER THAN THE 136 INITIALLY INDICATED IM REFTEL. THE NUMBERS WERE REDUCED ON THE 20TH WND 21ST WITH 3,308 AND 2,645 CONVOCAATIONS GESPZCTIVELY AND TOTALS OF 238 AND 89 NEW REVRUITS, INCLUDING 66 VOLUNTEERS ON BOTH DAYS. THE POOR PZRFORMANCE ON SUNDAY REFLECTS A DECREASE INHTHE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY BY LOCAL OFFICIALS RATHER THAN ANY BOWNWARD TREND AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS INDICATE THAT MORE THAN 300 CONSCRIPTS AND VOLUNTEERS WERE PROCESSED TODAY.

4. ALTHOUGH SOME DIFFICULTIES REMAIN, IN PARTICULAR THE PROBLEM OF SEEKING OUT THOSE WHO FAIL TO RESPOND TO CONVOCAATION ORDERS, INDICATIONS NOW ARE THAT THE CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM IS OPERATING SMOOTHLY ONCE MORE WND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO UNLESS DISRUPTED BY ORDERS FROM ABOVE OR OUTSIDE INFLUENCES.

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